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**MANHATTAN U.S. ATTORNEY CHARGES TWO PORT EMPLOYEES
IN PLOT TO TRAFFIC MORE THAN TWO TONS OF COCAINE
AT THE PORT OF NEW YORK AND NEW JERSEY**

PREET BHARARA, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, JOHN P. GILBRIDE, the Special Agent-in-Charge of the New York Field Office of the Drug Enforcement Administration ("DEA"), and PETER T. EDGE, the Special Agent-in-Charge of the Newark Office of the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's ("ICE") Homeland Security Investigations ("HSI"), announced charges today against DOMINIC GUIDO, a longshoreman, and ROBERT ROSELLI, an employee of a private company that conducts unloading operations at the Elizabeth-Port Authority Marine Terminal in Elizabeth, New Jersey ("PAMT"), for participating in a conspiracy to distribute more than 2,000 kilograms -- or two tons -- of cocaine, which was to be smuggled into the United States through the Port of New York and New Jersey (the "Port"). The charges arise out of a six-month investigation into criminal conduct connected to the Port, which manages PAMT. GUIDO was arrested today and is expected to appear in Manhattan federal court later today. ROSELLI was arrested in North Carolina, and is expected to appear in federal court there later today.

Manhattan U.S. Attorney PREET BHARARA said:
"Longshoremen serve as key gatekeepers for our ports and our borders, regulating what comes into our country and what stays out. These defendants allegedly corrupted these important positions and were in the pocket of drug smugglers who poison our neighborhoods. Today's arrests demonstrate that this Office, along with our law enforcement partners, is committed to stopping the entry of narcotics into the United States, be it by plane, boat or any other method."

DEA Special Agent-in-Charge JOHN P. GILBRIDE said: "This investigation led our agents throughout the city of New York, down the Eastern Seaboard to Puerto Rico and back. Not only are these defendants charged with allegedly distributing drugs, their breach of security while on duty is of grave concern to law enforcement and the public. We cannot afford, nor will we tolerate individuals who for personal enrichment place public safety in jeopardy. Port security is essential to securing public safety and trust."

ICE HSI Special Agent-in-Charge of the Newark Office Peter T. Edge said: "The importation of illegal narcotics through our ports into the United States will not be tolerated. We will continue working together with our law enforcement partners to identify and dismantle drug trafficking organizations to keep illegal drugs from being distributed throughout our communities. Today's arrests underscore our collective resolve at combating these crimes."

According to the Complaint, unsealed today in Manhattan federal court:

An extensive DEA-led wiretap investigation revealed that a local drug-trafficking operation (the "Local DTO") smuggled hundred-kilogram shipments of cocaine into the United States hidden inside secure shipping containers traveling on ships being unloaded at PAMT. The Local DTO relied upon GUIDO and ROSELLI, who both worked at PAMT, to retrieve the narcotics from the shipping containers, which were located in secure areas of the Port. GUIDO allegedly was responsible for cutting the locks on the containers to retrieve the narcotics inside, while ROSELLI monitored their status. At one point during the investigation, GUIDO gave one of the members of the Local DTO access to a secure area of the Port so that he could be photographed in front of a shipping container. GUIDO also provided the Local DTO member one of the vests worn by the longshoreman who unload ships at the Port.

According to the Complaint, GUIDO and ROSELLI discussed a shipment of 20 kilograms of cocaine with a confidential source providing information to the Government ("CS-1"). The shipment was expected to be located inside a container onboard a ship arriving at PAMT from Puerto Rico on or about April 22, 2011. Both GUIDO and ROSELLI had discussions with CS-1 that were recorded about the weight of the expected shipment and the unique number of the container in which it would be located, so that the shipment could be retrieved for CS-1 by GUIDO and ROSELLI. Agents from HSI then placed a suitcase containing approximately

20 kilograms of sham cocaine into the shipping container identified by CS-1. This sham cocaine was unloaded from the container on April 22, 2011 and delivered by GUIDO and ROSELLI to CS-1 later that same evening. ROSELLI later had a discussion with CS-1 where he agreed to smuggle as much as 2,000 additional kilograms of cocaine through the Port.

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GUIDO, 47, and ROSELLI, 44, are each charged with one count of conspiracy to distribute cocaine. This charge carries a mandatory minimum sentence of ten years in prison and a maximum sentence of life in prison.

The charges announced today evidence the continued commitment of the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York to combating corruption and other criminal conduct at the Port. The Office previously obtained consent decrees against several International Longshoremen's Association ("ILA") locals -- ILA Locals 1804-1 and 1588 in New Jersey; ILA 824, 1809, and 1909 in Manhattan; and ILA Local 1814 in Brooklyn -- as well as several other entities and individuals operating at the Port, barring them from racketeering activity and related criminal conduct. In addition, the Office is also currently working with a monitor appointed by the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York to protect ILA Local 1588 in Bayonne, New Jersey, from the influence of organized crime and other criminal conduct.

Mr. BHARARA thanked all of the law enforcement agencies for their outstanding work. He added that the investigation is ongoing.

This case is being led by the Office's Narcotics Unit. Assistant U.S. Attorneys BRIAN R. BLAIS and JAMES J. PASTORE, JR. are in charge of the prosecution.

The charges contained in the Complaint are merely accusations, and the defendants are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

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